

THE MALARIAL DISEASES OF EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA—STUDIED WITH REFERENCE TO THE GERM THEORY.

By S. S. SATCHWELL, M.D.

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Mr. President and Gentlemen of the North Carolina State Medical Society :

At an annual meeting at Raleigh, in May, 1884, I was appointed to report, at the succeeding meeting at Durham, upon "Advancement in the Science and Practice of Medicine." Prevented by unavoidable engagements from so doing, I now beg leave, respectfully, to submit this paper as a substitute, duly appreciating the compliment of said appointment. It contains some reflections upon the germ theory and malaria, together with a notice of some of the prevailing inflammations and fevers of our eastern counties. As a laborious country practitioner in Eastern North Carolina for the last thirty years, I trust this record of a portion of my observation and experience will not be wholly devoid of interest. We all know something of the necessity imposed upon the country practitioner of thinking for himself and of cultivating habits of self-reliance. This very necessity trains him to observe and investigate for himself, and to be careful and discriminating in accepting views, conclusions or dogmas of others without subjecting them to the test of rigid examination, sound medical reasoning and ample experience. So wonderful is the onward march of medical progress, as relating to the etiology, nature, pathology and therapeutics of disease, that, unless we are acquainted with sifted facts and actual knowledge that underlie established principles of our art and science, we are apt to become mere routinists, disqualified for deciding upon new theories and remedies as they continually come forward, and are easily made victims of those medical errors and delusions that are ever assailing the bulwarks of the profession. So great are the demands upon us all in these fundamental relations that scarcely any publication or treatise on a medical subject is now regarded as entitled to consideration unless it embraces the cause and nature of disease, as well as the means of its prevention, removal and